

## Day care report

A new policy will help bolster local day-care centres.

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## Bored of politics?

In western societies, particularly Canada, fewer people than ever seem interested in the political process.

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## Technical savvy

Three technicians are recognized for their contributions to research and teaching.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## New funds keep research on track \$12 million in AHFMR funds awarded to U of A researchers

By Richard Cairney

Concerned that a patient is suffering from a blocked blood vessel, a doctor might snake a catheter through the patient's blood vessels up to the blocked artery, inject a contrast agent and take X-ray images of the site. It's a common procedure regarded as the best method of 'seeing' such blockages.

But a University of Alberta researcher is trying to develop a less invasive way of getting the job done, providing more detailed information about what's going on inside a blood vessel while causing less discomfort to patients.

Dr. Alan Wilman is one of 43 medical and health researchers sharing in more than \$27.5 million in Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research personnel grants awarded across Alberta. At the U of A alone, 20 researchers have been awarded \$12 million.

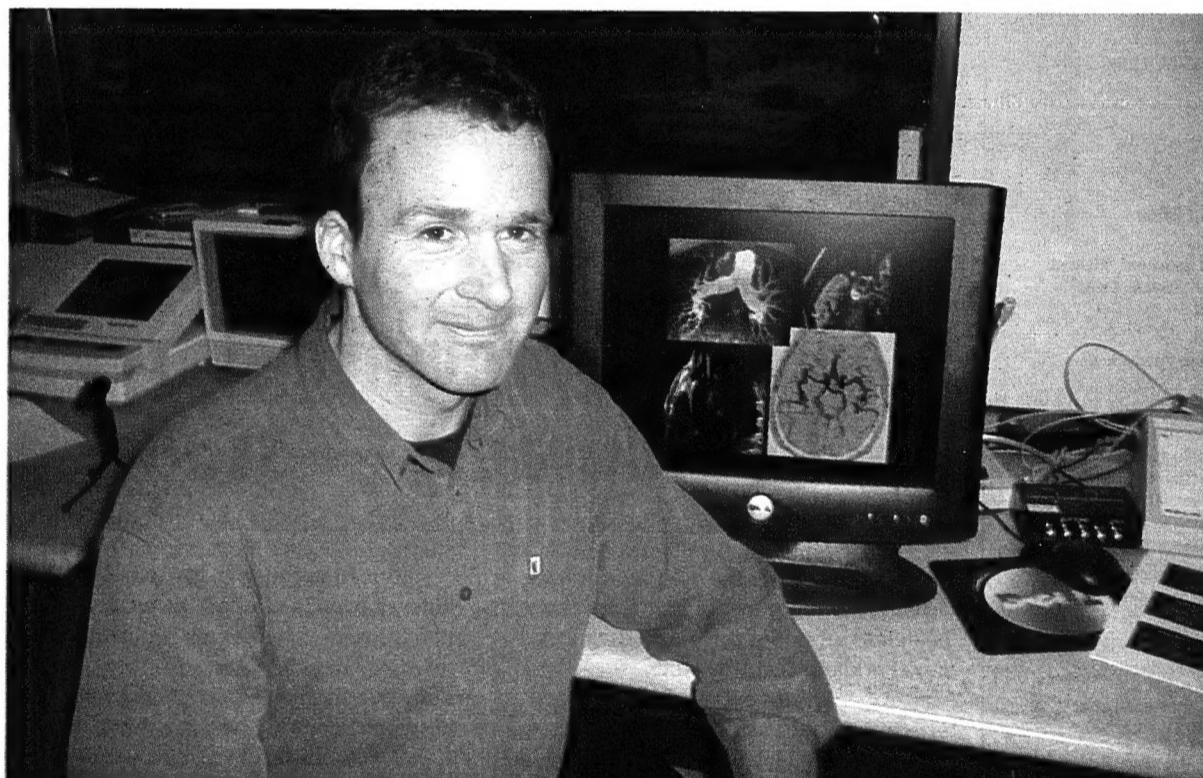
Wilman, a physicist, designs Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) techniques that provide highly detailed images of blood vessels. His previous achievements include developing a new MRI technique used to diagnose blood-vessel disease in more than a half-million patients worldwide each year.

Now he's trying to further refine the techniques, using double and triple the strength of magnetic fields used in clinical MRIs.

"The idea is to develop a safer and cheaper alternative that gives the same or better results," said Wilman, who completed a BSc at the University of British Columbia. He then came to the U of A to work on his PhD in physics, using the first MRI in Western Canada, funded by the AHFMR. Wilman later moved to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to conduct research before being lured back to the U of A with AHFMR funding.

Blood-vessel diseases, including heart attacks and strokes, are the number one cause of death in Canada, and Wilman, who teaches in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, hopes his work will help prevent deaths by aiding in diagnosing these conditions.

"There is an illusion that MRIs are expensive. But if you can diagnose a



Dr. Alan Wilman has received AHFMR funding to continue his research. Wilman is trying to develop improved MRI imaging techniques. The technology already provides clear images: (clockwise from bottom left) a black-blood image of Wilman's aorta; a contrast-enhanced image of the blood vessels of the lungs; a vessel-wall image of a patient with a partially blocked carotid artery; and a double-strength MRI angiogram of Wilman's brain.

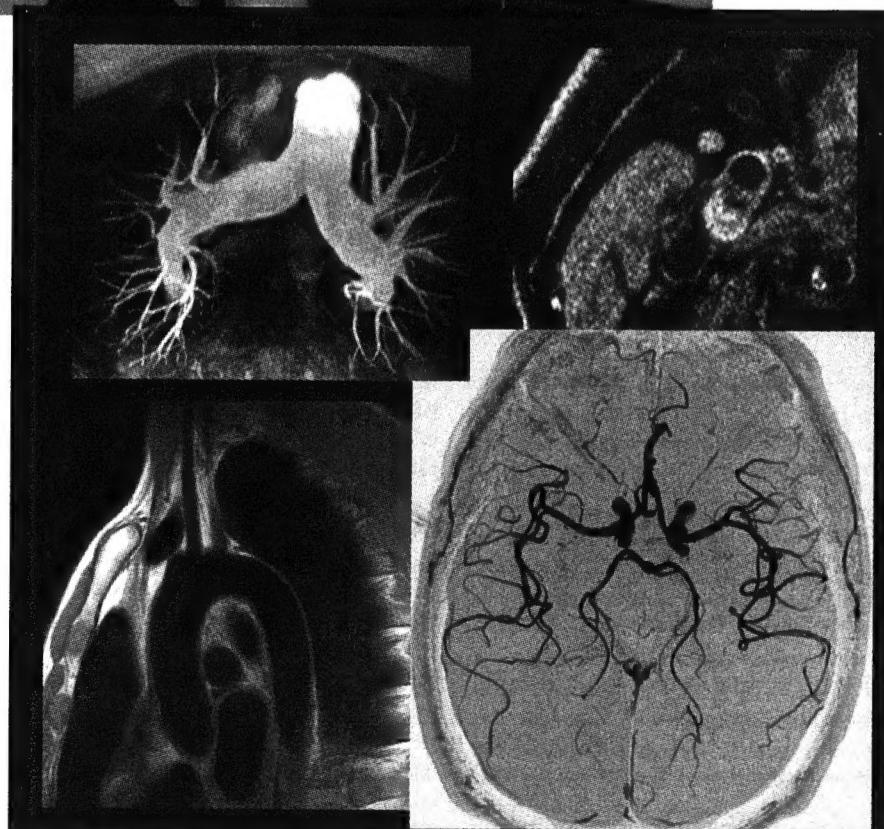
stroke or a heart attack before it happens, you will save the health-care system money," he said.

The techniques he's developing will not only provide a picture but also give doctors information about the material causing the block. This will aid in determining which route to take to treat their patients, Wilman said.

Other U of A recipients of the awards include Dr. Karin Olson, who studies cancer-related fatigue in palliative care patients; pediatrician Dr. Bernard Thebaud, who studies heart and lung disease in children; and Dr. Moira Glerum, a medical geneticist who researches mitochondrial disease.

The funding helps the U of A maintain its reputation as one of the country's leading research-intensive universities, Wilman added.

"If it weren't for the funding, I wouldn't be here," he said. "I'd probably be working somewhere in the states." ■



# New day-care policy approved

Housing and Food Services will take on administrative role

By Lee Elliott

Some of the best day cares in the city circle the University of Alberta campus, but for faculty, staff and students with young children, finding a space in one of them is tough.

A new policy, following recommendations of a report generated by the 17-member Daycare Advisory Committee, hopes to change that.

The policy commits the university to "ensuring open lines of communication with affiliated day cares, recognizing that certain day cares have a special role on campus," according to Doug Owram, provost and vice-president academic. The university will also provide funds to nearby day-care centres for overhead costs, formalizing an existing arrangement that

costs the university roughly \$200,000 a year for some 258 spaces.

The policy also commits the university, through Housing and Food Services, to playing an administrative co-ordinating role, especially in providing centralized information and consolidation of waiting lists and to providing some funds for emergency repairs or equipment needs.

All this is good news for Dr. Janet Elliott, a professor of chemical and mechanical engineering, who chaired the advisory committee.

Elliott's own two children were happily settled in day care before she accepted the role of chair, but she says the day care situation had become a burden to parents and a threat to faculty recruitment. "The waiting lists were really long and I know they've gotten even longer," she said. Elliott booked space for her second child when she was only eight weeks pregnant, but was still unable to be assured a spot when her daughter was eight-months old. Elliott says 100 additional spaces would be needed just to keep the waiting lists at current levels.

"We had a letter from one professor who said he was actively telling possible recruits not to come here because of the day-care situation," said Elliott. The U of A could lose people to institutions that have been more progressive on the daycare issue. However, she says, the problem is systemic and not one the university can solve on its own. "It's a situation where you need a lot of money to fix the problem... We're in a situation where the university doesn't have a lot of money to work with."

What the university has done, she said, is recognize "the importance of daycare and



Photo courtesy Health Canada

A new policy on day care at the University of Alberta will provide some financial assistance to area day-care centres and greater support in helping faculty and staff find placements for their children.

responded in a fiscally responsible way."

Owram says "most universities in Canada involved in providing day care enjoy provincial support that makes that possible." If day care were a benefit at the U of A, it would have to be a negotiated item with the faculty and staff associations, he says. Given the age distributions on campus, consensus would be difficult.

"Child care is usually a concern for some five to seven years of a career," he said. Older faculty members may be more interested in negotiating free tuition for their children. In fact, in a recent AAS:UA survey of benefits members most wanted, day care came dead last.

"The university doesn't intend to get directly into the operation of day care," said Owram. "We can't take a whole lot of operating dollars targeted for research and teaching and divert them to day care."

"I think the most important thing about the new policy is that the report comes from a user group working with the university," said Owram. The committee included representation from NASA, AASUA, SU, GSA and the day cares. "It's not a top-down decision," he said. "The policy reflects the concerns among people who use day care about availability of space and the quality of that space."

## >> quick facts

### CHILD CARE POLICY STRATEGIES

- Establish affiliation agreements with area day cares confirming the number of spaces available to the university.
- Assign administration to Housing and Food Services
- Establish a Campus Child Care Advisory Committee to resolve issues of mutual concern, such as waiting lists
- Provide a subsidy to affiliated day cares limited to cleaning, maintenance, utilities, rent and capital upgrades.
- Provide a \$10,000 contingency fund for equipment replacement, emergency repairs and special requests.
- Explore affiliation with a fifth day care — the Hospital and Community Day Care.
- Explore developing facilities in order to eventually move all affiliated day cares into university-controlled space.
- Continue to investigate possible construction/renovation funding assistance for day cares through partnering agencies.

### DAY CARES CURRENTLY AFFILIATED:

The University Infant and Toddler Centre, the University and Community Day Care, the Students' Union and Community Day Care and the Garneau/University Childcare Centre.

For the complete report of the Daycare Advisory Committee and the new policy see <http://www.hfs.ualberta.ca/news.html>

For the AAS:UA survey on benefits see: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~aasua/>

## Express News

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# Wealthiest province starving public programs — study

By Geoff McMaster

Alberta may have the economic advantage, but too many of its citizens have been left out in the cold, according to a new Parkland Institute study.

"Alberta is an extremely fortunate province," said Parkland's research director, Dr. Trevor Harrison. "We have oil and gas revenues, and a well-educated populace who are energetic and hard working. But if you look at it, Alberta funds a lot of its programs kind of middle of the road."

"The opportunity to build a diverse, sustainable, high-wage, progressive and 'civil' society, with public services second to none, continues to be squandered in favour of relying on market forces alone and otherwise doing things on the cheap."

The study, called Alberta's 'Good Enough' Approach to Fiscal Management, is the most broadly focused report the institute has ever produced, said Harrison. It is timed to coincide with the release of the provincial budget April 8.

Harrison argued the Alberta government, even in times of plenty, has been overly concerned with eliminating the provincial debt ahead of schedule while starving public programs such as education, health care, and social assistance. While lowering the debt is important, he said, neglecting the social infrastructure would only leave the province with more debt in the future.

Education funding per student at the kindergarten to Grade 12 level, for example, is lower in real terms (factoring in inflation) than it was in the early 1990s, he said. Funding for post-secondary students has been better but has only returned to 1995 levels, and costs continue to rise with students bearing the burden through tuition increases.

"This is the province that should be the A student, but in fact, it seems the government is content being the student who is bringing home the C or C- all the time. Good enough seems to be the motto of this government," he said.

He said Alberta is also over-dependent on revenue from oil and gas, which fluctuates wildly depending on market forces, in order to support a low-tax regime. "You can't run good programs for the public on finances that are that unstable."

One of Harrison's recommendations in the study is to eliminate the flat tax system adopted in 2001 and return to a progressive rate structure based on income.

Harrison also criticized the government for failing to raise its "abysmally low" minimum wage, the lowest in the country at \$5.90 per hour. He added that minimum wage tends to determine social allowance rates, also the lowest in the country and unchanged since 1993. And if you factor in inflation, "the real benefits

for social allowance recipients is 40 per cent of what it was a decade ago," he said.

However, Alberta Finance spokesman Jerry Bellikka denied the provincial government has been neglecting its public programs.

"When you look at education and health, they make up more than two-thirds of the budget of the province of Alberta. How much more is it going to take to make the Parkland Institute happy?" he said. "Just how much is enough?"

He said by eliminating 80 per cent of the debt in the past decade (to \$4.8 billion from \$22.7 billion), the government has saved \$1.2 billion in debt servicing costs, money that is now be applied to education, health, and social assistance.

"We think we have done a pretty substantial job of investing in Alberta... In education we spend more per capita than any other province in the country," an increase of 46 per cent since 1995. At the same time, he said, enrollment (in K-12) has increased six per cent. "We now have teachers that are the highest paid in the country."

Bellikka also said the government has set up a "new fiscal framework," to "get off that roller coaster of up-and-down oil and gas revenues and get on longer-term economic stability."

# Democratic process leaves a bad taste

**Panelists ponder what prevents people from participating in democracy**

By Gene Kosowan

**D**uring the 2000 federal election, Muke Hudema found the conventional idea of exercising his franchise hard to stomach. So he and 30 other Edmonton activists ate their ballots instead.

"It went down fine," Hudema said of the digestive demonstration tactic initiated by the Edible Ballot Society, a national movement that boasted roughly 150 members during the election. Hudema and five other participants in the city were arrested for their actions, although charges were dropped after an eight-month investigation.

"The main purpose of eating our ballots was to make a statement to get people to question democracy," said Hudema, who is president of the University of Alberta Students' Union.

"We didn't feel that, regardless of what party you vote for, there is really a system that we truly believed in that was representative of the people. By eating our ballots, we were able to start that conversation."

Although the gastronomical gesture garnered headlines, poll results during the election, which granted Prime Minister Jean Chretien a record fourth consecutive term in office, were still low. According to one of Canada's pre-eminent political scientists, declining voter turnout is symptomatic of a crisis in Canada's political system.

At a public forum dubbed Escape From Politics, held March 25 at the University of Alberta Tory Lecture Theatre, Dr. Reg Whitaker said that plummeting attendance at polling stations during elections is evident in most western democracies, although it's particularly rampant in Canada.

"The institutions that we hold in common for self-government are facing a decline in legitimacy, a shrinking of the public faith," said Whitaker, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus at York University and Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the University of Victoria.

"We certainly see a crisis in representative democracy," said U of A sociology professor and Parkland Institute director Dr. Gordon Laxer, who chaired the event. "Turnouts in elections are falling in many countries. Citizens and voters are turned off by official politics and almost everywhere, politicians are held in very low esteem. There is a widespread feeling that no matter who you elect to office, they're all going to do the same thing anyway."

Whitaker noted that Canadians born since the 1960s are less likely to cast ballots than any other demographic group, contributing to significant drops at the polls since 1988. In the last federal election, only 22 per cent of the population eligible to vote for the first time actually cast ballots, while 80 per cent of older Canadian citizens voted. The result, he added, is a cumulative pattern of subsequent generations showing less interest in the political process than their predecessors, even though younger Canadians are better educated than their older counterparts.

"There are more opportunities for gaining political knowledge, but there is less interest in taking advantage of them," he said.

Despite evidence that younger people are seeking other forums for political expression, from protesting to joining public interest groups, Whitaker indicated that those who took part in alternative movements were more likely to vote anyway.

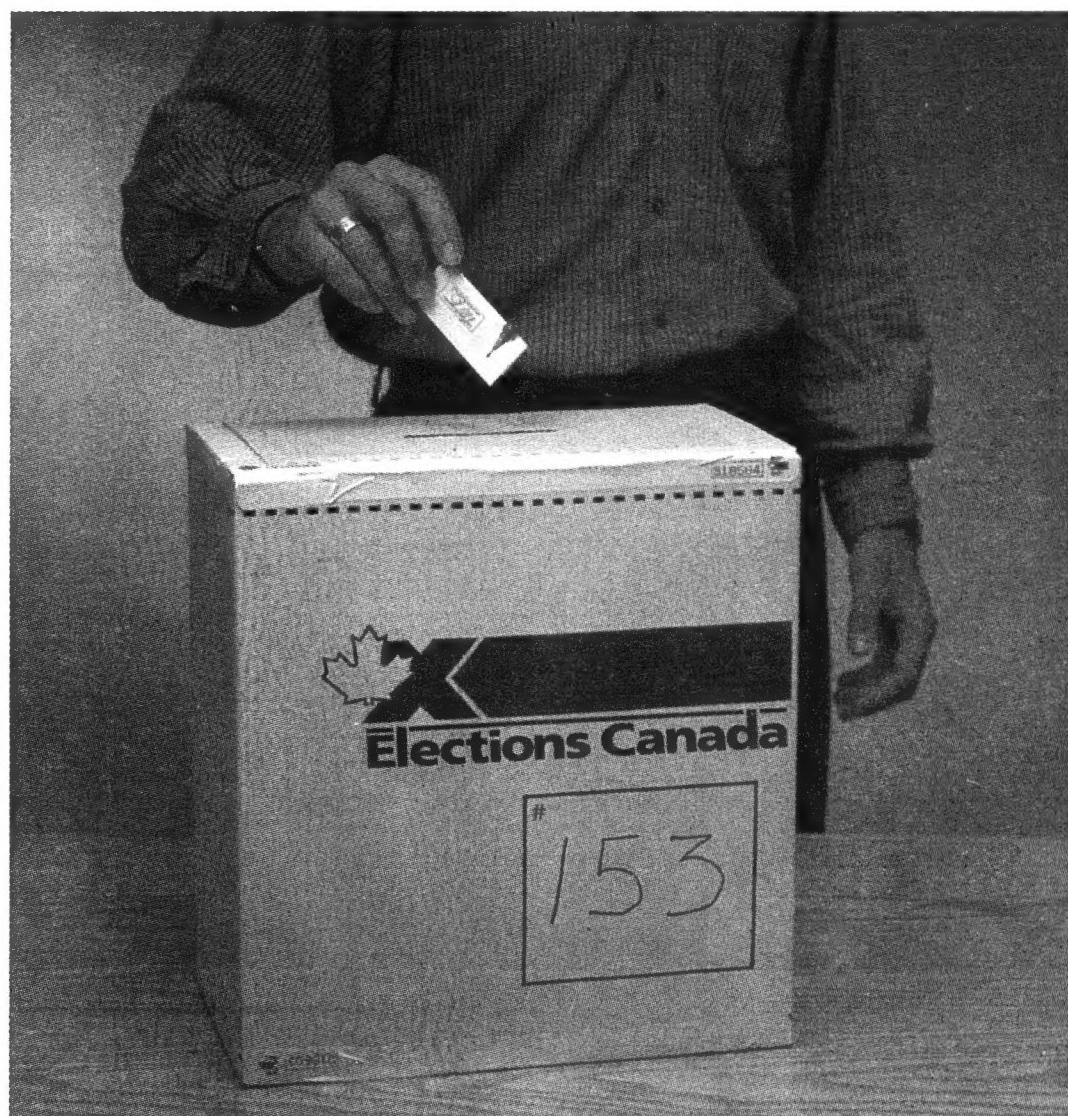


Photo courtesy Elections Canada

It isn't often you see this – voters are staying away in droves, prompting the question: have political parties failed to engage the public?

However, given the thousands who took to the streets in major Canadian cities to protest the US-led invasion of Iraq, forum panelist Elizabeth Panasiuk, currently working on her PhD in philosophy at the U of A, advised Whitaker not to rule out public demonstrations as an important barometer for political activism.

"After the February 15 protests, the *New York Times* said that now there are two superpowers in the world," said Panasiuk. "On the one side, there is the US military machine. On the other side there is international public opinion. The revival of protest is an increasingly mainstream form of political presentation. Canadians seem to be placing more faith and confidence in such political channels than in their parliamentary representatives to have their voices heard."

Another panelist, Dr. Lois Harder, assistant professor at the Department of Political Science at the U of A, said that the invasion of Iraq is a major illustration of how the political process has turned off citizens.

"It seems difficult for me not to see the war in Iraq as a primary example of the consequences of a slight on politics," she said. "The events and debates surrounding the war, including the process of weapons inspections, the refusal to give the process some time to work and the willingness of the American government to go it alone are prime examples of a failure to take the political process seriously."

Whitaker believes more fundamental factors are at work, eroding the credibility of the political system.

"New communications technologies are fragmenting the community," he said.

"Marketing these days is no longer mass marketing, but micro-marketing. Multiple TV channels pander to specialized entities. Internet communication draws people of like interests together. Political parties no longer broadcast, but narrow-cast their ideals, and in this process, politics is not packaged and marketed for young people, because young people do not register as a significant enough demographic for the political market."

Whitaker also believes that globalization has contributed to the fragmentation by removing the policy-making framework from elected representatives into the domain of such influential groups as major corporations, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund. Any policy changes proposed by provincial and federal lawmakers would be rendered illegal by international agreements, he said.

According to Whitaker, both ends of the political spectrum can take some responsibility for the decline in participatory democracy.

"What's significant is that the left and the right have tried to move their important issues out of the reach of democratic politics and thus out of the reach of democratic accountability," said Whitaker.

"The left has done this by an emphasis on social rights, our constitutional Charter of Rights. The right has locked national legislative powers into restrictive global frameworks, beginning with the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA, so much that it is out of the hands of the legislatures and of government, federal and provincial, to actually achieve things that were once on the political agenda."

"Turnouts in elections are falling in many countries. Citizens and voters are turned off by official politics and almost everywhere, politicians are held in very low esteem. There is a widespread feeling that no matter who you elect to office, they're all going to do the same thing anyway."

– Dr. Gordon Laxer

Panelist Dr. David Kahane, a professor at the U of A's philosophy department, said a number of economic and social factors posed as obstacles towards participatory democracy. "Certain economic forces within Canada and beyond distort the democratic process," he said. "The tremendous influence of corporations with money entrenched on global, national and local politics is distortion. Sometimes, it's crude. The power of some social groups over others also distorts the democratic process. The market will say that indigenous people, non-whites, gays and lesbians and so on are groups that don't tend to do well in the brokering of everyday politics."

Whitaker suggested that a number of remedies — such as teaching civic values in the classroom, introducing the concept of e-democracy via the Internet to boost the accessibility of the political system and parliamentary reform to provide members of Parliament more autonomy from party policies — could help make collective democracy more relevant to young Canadians.

"A good first step is to listen to and draw on the energies of these young people who are passionately interested in politics, even if not the traditional forms of political engagement," he said.

Hudema believes that the provincial and federal systems could take a hint from political engagement taking place at the campus level, especially during Students' Union elections.

"It's very disempowering to see the government is not really listening to the people," said Hudema. Students, and our next generation of legislators, "don't feel they're an integral part of the decision-making process." ■

# Wharton wraps up residency

Eight-month posting helps author help others

By Stephen Osadetz

After spending the past year as the University of Alberta's writer-in-residence, Thomas Wharton remains one of Edmonton's most famous writers, and now he's probably one of the best-connected writers in the city's literary scene.

Author of the award-winning books

*Icefields* and *Salamander*,

Wharton has spent the last eight months working on a new book, helping writers in the Edmonton community with their own manuscripts, and spending time with his family. In addition to these responsibilities, he's also given readings around Edmonton, and attended book clubs and writers' workshops.

Wharton has an easy-going manner that must have helped him to deal with all the strangers coming into his office. Except for his thick-rimmed, black glasses, you would never know he was the bookish type. "Most of the people I see are just looking for a straight-up, honest opinion on their writing. They want to know whether I think their work is publishable or if I wanted to throw it across the room," he said.

Over the year, Wharton read more than 50 manuscripts, which ranged from mystery-thriller short stories to massive memoirs. "There was one man who brought a 500 or 600-page tome in to me in a cardboard box. I had to say, 'I'm sorry, but I can't read this whole thing.'

But in helping these writers out, Wharton learned more about his own craft. "I often find myself saying to somebody that they should try one thing or avoid another – it's good advice, and then I realize that maybe I should try following

"I often find myself saying to somebody that they should try one thing or avoid another – it's good advice, and then I realize that maybe I should try following it myself

– Thomas Wharton



Stephen Osadetz

it myself," he said.

Wharton is now working on a new novel about growing up in Jasper. The project, he says, is in an "embryonic" stage. This book grew out of another, stalled book that he finished last year but hasn't yet published. "To me it was a really exciting book because it was a lot closer to my own experiences – it was a book about a writer on the road, based on some of my misadventures."

But the book seemed to his publisher like too much of a departure from his other novels, so it hasn't yet seen print.

Since then, Wharton has started the new novel, and he has bought a new, bigger house than he had before. The extra space, he says, is a big help in his writing, because he no longer has to share his writing space with his kids, whose playroom doubled as Wharton's office. "There were times when I would come into my office to find that (my kids) had taken my books and made castles out of them," he said. "The new set-up is a lot better."

In addition to working on the new novel, Wharton is having a collection of short stories called *Logograph* published by Gaspereau Press, a small press in Nova Scotia. For the most part, the stories grew out of his second novel, the highly acclaimed *Salamander*. The book will be entirely hand-set and hand-pressed, which is a real treat for Wharton.

Next year, the U of A's Writer-in-Residence will be Myrna Kostash, a creative non-fiction author whose latest book is *The Next Canada: Looking for a Future Nation*. She will move into her new digs in the Humanities Centre in September. ■

Thomas Wharton's term as the U of A's writer in residence is coming to a close. The author of the critically acclaimed novels *Icefields* and *Salamander* says he is learning to take his own advice.

## Panel debates legality of war in Iraq

By Gilbert A. Bouchard

US President George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq was certainly not a popular move on the international diplomatic front, but was it illegal as well?

A panel of University of Alberta academics, organized by the U of A Centre for Constitutional Studies, met to discuss the legal and human rights ramifications of a war that is causing endless consternation around the world.

The conclusion reached over the 2-1/2 hours of heated presentations and questions: the war is most likely legal, but was not undertaken in the best fashion. What's more, it represents a shortfall in American diplomacy and raises thorny international legal questions, which will plague the international community for years.

"On the one side you have Bush and Blair doing their 'Skipper and Gilligan' routine in the Azores in support of the attack, and then you have the coalition of the unwilling saying the war is illegal," said Professor Trevor Farrow of the U of A Faculty of Law. "In some ways both sides (arguing the legality of the war) are right and have equal legal weight. You can dress this war up and down depending on what arguments you want to make."

"The legality is not the ultimate question, but it's the issue of whether or not we are willing to move away from a post-World-War-II realist-sovereignist rule of

law. If we don't like what we see, well, we got what we bargained for," said Farrow, noting that traditional neo-liberal attitudes towards state sovereignty have been eroded over the last half decade in part due to increased globalist attitudes about trade.

U of A Professor (Emeritus) Dr. Leslie Green of the department of political science also has no problem building a case for either side of the legality issue. For him, the controversy and charges of legality have as much to do with the fact of "us not trusting the Yanks and the Yanks not trusting anybody else" to take leadership of the war.

According to Green, "the war would have as many casualties if it were a UN war," and he noted that there might be valid humanitarian grounds for invading Iraq. "It's a duty of states to act in the name of humanity and interfere on behalf of citizens being put upon by a tyrant," he said.

Professor Thomas Keating of the Department of Political Science says the international community needs to break its silence and debate the role of international institutions before valuable internationalist tools are lost to America's desire to police the world.

"During the Cold War you had the power of the US being balanced by the USSR, but now the right of armed intervention means pretty much the right of

American power assuming responsibility of international security and pretty much getting rid of any governments that get in the way," he said. Keating went on to cite the American National Security Strategy, which outlined America's desire to use unilateral force to affect regime changes in the name of security.

"The US is explicitly denigrating international institutions that still remain vital for peaceful international order."

Dr. Donald Ipperciel, a Canada Research Chair at the U of A Faculté Saint-Jean, warns against being too dogmatic.

"Principles are never absolute because they often conflict with other principles," he said, noting that much of the consternation over the war has less to do with the philosophy of the action than bad diplomacy.

"The US did a poor job of diplomacy and selling the war. Allies have said they've felt bullied, intimidated and even bribed by the Americans," he noted. "Look at Clinton's actions in Kosovo. There was no outcry mainly because he was a better diplomat."

Addressing the war's aftermath, Dr. Janice Williamson, of the Department of English, is concerned with the long-term health ramifications of both this war and the first Gulf War.

"The wars will take a huge ecological toll," she said. "Forty tons of depleted ura-

nium was left in Iraq and Kuwait after the first war, which has led to a surge in cancer rates. We've made a garbage dump of a landscape."

Who then gets to clean up the mess? According to Keating that privilege should fall on the shoulders of the US "If you start a war then you assume the responsibility to rebuild that society. Unfortunately the track record in that department isn't too encouraging." ■

## folio letters to the editor

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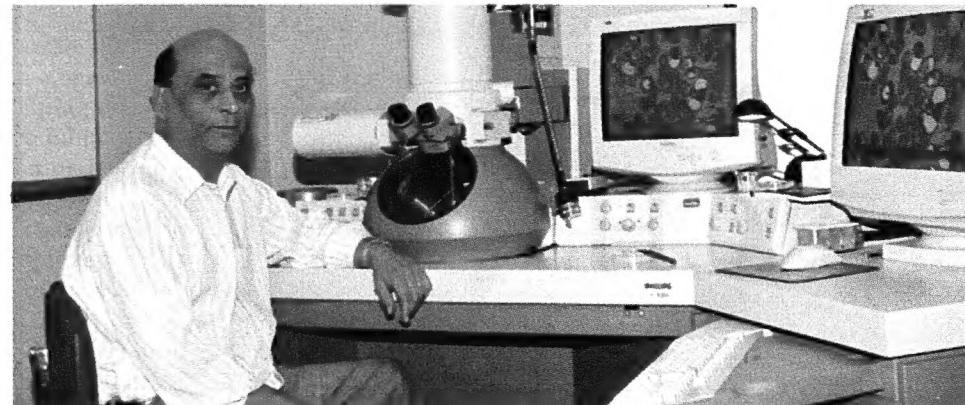
By Dave Alexander

Researchers wouldn't get far without technicians backing them up, but how often are the folks who maintain, design, build and teach others how to use the equipment of academia officially recognized for their work?

At the University of Alberta they've been getting more notice since the U of A chapter of Sigma Xi introduced the Nat Rutter Outstanding Technician Awards in 1997. The certificate and accompanying monetary reward is named for Dr. Nathaniel Rutter. The one-time Chair of the U of A's former Department of Geology was instrumental in raising the profile of technical staff on campus.

To be eligible for the Rutter Award candidates must be full-time U of A technicians, having worked on campus in the areas of science or engineering, for a minimum of five years. Criteria are based on skill, quality of work, innovation and initiative, dedication, and relationship with both staff and students. This year's awards garnered three winners:

### RAKESH BHATNAGAR, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



Rakesh Bhatnagar uses a transmission electron microscope to help researchers see the smallest details.

Rakesh Bhatnagar, in the Department of Biological Sciences, helps students and researchers peer into the microscopic world.

"Just about everything is fascinating to me – different things every day," Rakesh Bhatnagar said of the world as seen through a microscope. His focus, however, lies in his responsibility as manager of the microscopy unit, looking after and teaching others how to use the U of A's expensive electron and laser scanning microscopes, which are worth \$450,000 to \$750,000 apiece.

The expression 'looking at little things in a big way' is how Bhatnagar describes the lure of his position. "I wanted to see what the inside of a cell looks like, and how things change when you do experiments."

His career as a microscopist came after he left India to attend the University of Saskatchewan as a graduate student in Biology, where he earned his MSc. He's worked in the Department of Biological Sciences and the former Department of Zoology at the U of A since 1985.

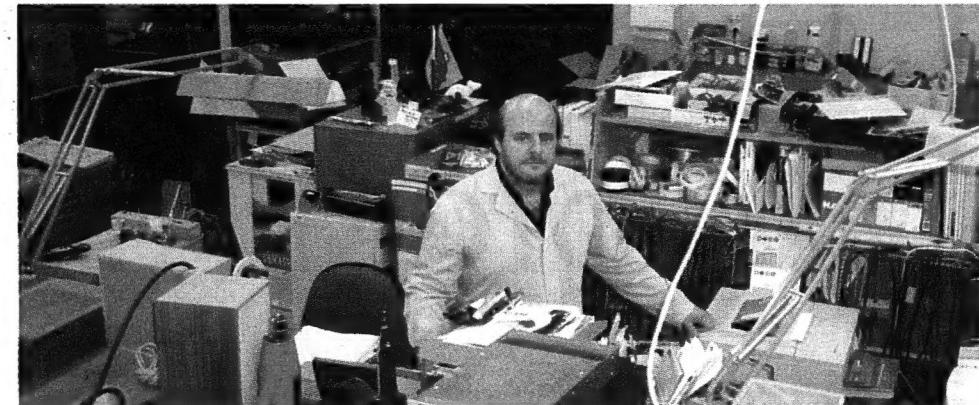
As expected of anyone in his position, he's seen an awful lot, particularly when fine-tuning equipment that provides the opportunity to see things at 200,000, even 300,000 magnification. "We look at just about everything," he said. "We look at

microbiological samples and how they clean oil spills, we look at plant structures – at the leaf surfaces, how gas exchange occurs there; we look at insect material, we look at sections, embryos, we even look at polymers, and sometimes even single proteins in a cell." He adds that much of the technology used is so specialized that sometimes people need to be flown in from other countries to service it.

An avid traveller who's helped to raise three daughters, it's no surprise Bhatnagar excels at aiding the wide variety of students that rely on the equipment at what he calls "the central core facility of the Faculty of Science." With two electron and two laser scanning microscopes, the demand for equipment and instructions on how to use it is always high. To accommodate this, he makes sure students have access to the lab around the clock.

You'd think he'd tire of the constant needs of sprawling Biological Sciences Department and neophyte researchers trying to learn complex technology, but Bhatnagar says the opposite is true. Ask Bhatnagar what his favourite part of the job is and he answers without hesitation: "Helping students achieve their goals. The most rewarding is when graduate students come to you with a problem and you can help them out." ■

### ISAAC LANK, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



Isaac Lank's shop turns out unique devices to help in behavioural research, and helps with day-to-day electronics repairs.

When psychology students and researchers are conducting behavioural experiments, they need certain equipment that just isn't available at hardware stores. So they visit Isaac Lank's shop in the Biological Sciences Building, where they know their exact needs will be met.

Lank has concentrated on electronics and psychology to find his ideal occupation.

After majoring in psychology and minoring in English at the U of A, the Edmonton native took two years of electronics engineering at NAIT before teaching Pascal programming and office applications at Concordia College. After that, he worked for CDI and a large communications company. He started his own computer maintenance business, Computer Support Technologies, but it was in his old faculty that he found his calling. He calls his job as an Electronics Technician in the Psychology Department "a perfect match."

"I like to get results," he said. "Psychology is a field that's on the verge of a lot of breakthroughs, and it's great to be a part of them."

Much of his work deals with behavioural-testing equipment. Students use devices he has built to observe changes in the way memory and brain functions work.

His most current undertaking is a

"forced exercise wheel," which will be used to measure the effects of rehabilitation on rats which have had strokes, aiding researchers in determining ideal timelines for stroke patients to begin therapy.

"A lot of behaviour has to be measured with behavioural testing equipment," Lank explained. "You can't just go to Canadian Tire and buy it. It's specialized, it's expensive, some of it doesn't even exist and you have to come up with it on your own. My job here in the shop is to design and build equipment so it's safe, robust and practical."

"There are many other things I do during the day: fix computers, software instruction, administrative type duties and general help around the department, as well as building this equipment. I get results – it's rewarding."

He credits much of his interest in hands-on "creative" research to his father. "My Dad was a machinist, and from a young age I was in the garage with him on weekends working. This is where I got the fundamentals of shop work. It's amazing how it comes back to you and it's useful."

In fact, family is the focus of his next major project. "One of the things I'm proud of is my wife Teresa and I are going to be parents in a couple of weeks," he beams. ■

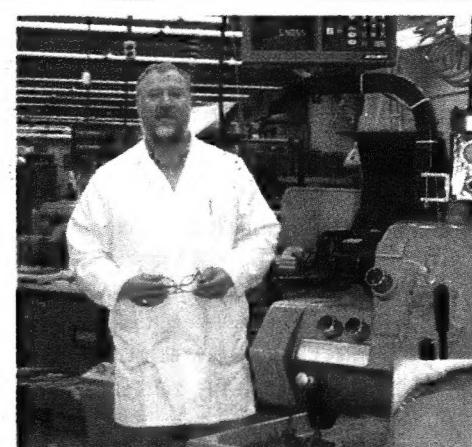
### HUBERT HOFMANN, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

While growing up in Frankfurt, Hubert Hofmann suspected his love of Jack London stories would lead him on some sort of pioneering adventure – he just had no idea it would be in chemistry.

After earning an apprenticeship as a tool and die maker in Germany, he sought out the prairies that he'd read about, settling in Edmonton in 1962.

"Believing I should experience Canada the same way Jack London would have," he said, "I soon bought a horse, saddle, cowboy boots, and a 30-30 Winchester lever-action rifle. And wearing my Stetson hat I would take the bus from 95 Street and 109 Avenue down to the Rainbow Valley Ranch, now a campground, where I kept my horse. Here, I became known as the 'crazy German kid cowboy who speaks no English.'"

While indulging in a quasi-urban cowboy lifestyle that included riding his trusty steed Kentucky Blue in the Klondike Days parade, Hofmann learned plastics forming, molding, and machining at NAIT. Then, in 1965, he cemented his future when he met his wife Yvonne and answered an ad for a machinist technician at the University of Alberta.



Hubert Hofmann oversees a large shop that manufactures one-of-a-kind devices used in chemistry research and teaching. The shop is equipped with 1960s-era lathes that have been upgraded to allow more precise machining. It also boasts current state-of-the-art equipment that helps produce delicate devices.

After spending much of his probationary period here designing and building ion-source equipment, he greatly impressed university chemistry researchers. He's been a fixture of the

department ever since.

"When I first came here I was absolutely terrified when I was asked to build my first ion source. I didn't know what it was, and I had very little experience building the research apparatus," he said of the essential part of a mass spectrometer, a device used to measure atmospheric content like air pollution. Since then he's built many versions of the apparatus,

which used to take up an entire lab and can now be put in a case, some of which ended up all over the world. His work has traveled as far as MIT, Silicon Valley, even the University of Tokyo.

Hofmann

supervises a staff of five machinists, an electrical technician and one metal fabricator who work in a sprawling shop in the basement of the Gunning-Lemieux Chemistry Building. Work produced in the

shop has helped the department and its researchers earn a reputation for cutting-edge research. One current project being constructed in the shop is a device that will help bend X-rays at the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron, based in Saskatoon. The shop itself is as efficient as you can expect. 1960s-vintage metal lathes on the shop floor were built to stand the test of time but not to allow operators to work to within thousandths of an inch. But new computerized components added to the machines have enhanced their capabilities, putting them on par with state-of-the-art equipment at a much lower cost.

The former "crazy German kid cowboy" simply loves to build and he even spent five years making "an architecturally accurate working model" of a hanseatic (medieval merchant) sailing ship. Hofmann says he and his colleagues in the shop excel at their jobs for the same reason he indulges in his hobby projects. "Here in research, you're allowed to contribute. You're allowed to be inventive, you're allowed to be creative, and the result is much greater job satisfaction."

"When someone comes to us with a real problem, we literally thrive on it." ■

# talks & events

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/ualberta/L2.cfm?c=10>**

## UNTIL APR 2003

**Campus Observatory** The Campus Observatory is open to the general public every Thursday night beginning at 8 p.m. during the academic year, with the exception of holiday periods. The Observatory is operated by faculty and student volunteers belonging to SPACE (Students for the Promotion of Astronomy, Culture and Education). For further information, please contact Dr. S. Morsink at 492-3987.

## UNTIL APR 05 2003

**Studio Theatre** The Plough and the Stars. All shows at 8 p.m. Written by Sean O'Casey and set during the Easter Uprising in Ireland in 1916. A story about the lower-class struggle for an independent nation and the lives that are affected because of it. Call the Box Office at 492-2495.

## UNTIL APR 06 2003

**Room Measures** 'Room Measures' curated by Agnieszka Matejko. Sculptural Furniture that challenges preconceived notions on what is art and what is craft. McMullen Art Gallery, U of A Hospital. Gallery is open from 10-8 p.m. Mon through Fri; 1-8 p.m. Sat & Sunday, located at the 112 st. entrance to the U of A Hospital.

## APR 07 - 10 2003

### Live It Up Weight & Lifestyle

**Management Program** Lose Weight, Feel Great! Live It Up program is designed and instructed by Dietitians, Exercise Physiologists, and Psychologists. Please see Information Package on [www.liveitup.ab.ca](http://www.liveitup.ab.ca) or call 988-3026. Location: U of A Hospital. Web site: [www.liveitup.ab.ca](http://www.liveitup.ab.ca)

## UNTIL APR 23 2003

**Les is More - One Man Exhibition by Les Graff** 286 works in total using 1,144 nails to install site specific/studio variations covering an area of 72,592 sq. in., saving over \$23,655.06 on framing selected from four years of production work separated by two inches of negative space. Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday - Friday; 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Friday and 9 a.m. - 12 noon Saturday. Location: University Extension Gallery, 2nd floor, University Extension Centre.

## UNTIL OCT 31 2003

**First Aid Training** The Office of Environmental Health & Safety has arranged for Standard First Aid/Heartsaver courses to be held on campus once again this year. The training is comprised of two full-day sessions (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) with morning, lunch and afternoon breaks. The cost is \$97 per person. The first course will be held in early April and the last at the end of October. Registration is limited due to classroom size. For further information and registration forms, call Cindy Ferris at 492-1810 or e-mail [cindy.ferris@ehs.ualberta.ca](mailto:cindy.ferris@ehs.ualberta.ca) or visit our home page at <http://www.ehs.ualberta.ca> Location: various locations on campus and City of Edmonton.

## APR 04 2003

**Colloquium/Department of History and Classics** Stephanie Cousineau (History Department, University of Calgary) will give this year's Greyhound Lecture on "Preparedness for What?: Woodrow Wilson and the Preparedness Speeches of 1916." The lecture will be at 3:30 p.m. in Tory 2-58. Coffee and donuts will be served, and all are welcome.

## APR 05 2003

**Philosophers' Cafe** Event sponsored by the Office of Public Affairs. Nina's Restaurant, 10139 - 124 Street. Topic: Youth Crime: Are we doing the right thing? Guest Scholar: Dr. Bryan Hogeveen, Professor of Sociology. Moderator: Martin Tweedale, Professor of Philosophy. From 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

**Department of Music** Master of Music Recital. Michael Kurschat, Choral Conducting. Free admission. 8:00 p.m. Convocation Hall.

## APR 6 2003

**Department of Music** The University of Alberta Concert Band. William H Street, Director. 3:00 p.m. Convocation Hall.

**Department of Music** The University Symphony Orchestra, Tanya Prochazka, Conductor.

Program will feature Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 with soloist Ruston Vuori, piano. Bartok Concerto for Orchestra. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

**University of Alberta Memorial Service** The University of Alberta Alumni Association is holding a memorial service to pay tribute to our alumni who passed away during 2002. A Christian service of worship will be held Sunday, April 6th, 2003 from 2-3 p.m. at the St. Joseph's College Chapel on the UofA campus. A reception will follow. For directions, parking information or to RSVP by April 1st, contact Laura at 492-6075.

## APR 07 2003

**Department of Cell Biology** Recruit Candidate, Dr. Sinisa Urban, Postdoctoral Fellow, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge (UK), presents: "Rhomboid intramembrane proteases define an ancient and conserved cell signal activation pathway." From 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building.

### Department of Biological Sciences

Department of Biological Sciences Botany 600 Seminar Series. Valar Anoop, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, will speak on "Metabolic Engineering." 12:00 noon, in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/bot600/>

**Department of Music** Music at Noon, Convocation Hall Student Recital Series featuring students from the Department of Music. Free admission. 12:10 p.m.

**Department of Music** Grant MacEwan College and University of Alberta Jazz Bands, Raymond Baril and Tom Dust, Directors. Salute to the Bands. A Tribute to the Great Swing Bands of the 1930s and 1940s featuring works by Ellington, Shaw, Goodman, Miller and others. John L Haar Theatre, Centre for the Arts, Grant MacEwan College. Admission: \$10/adult, \$8/student/senior. For tickets and concert information, please call 497-4436. 7:30 p.m. Department of Music

**Student Composers Concert** A concert of new works for string quartet by composition students at the University of Alberta. Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7. Free admission. 8:00 p.m.

## APR 08 2003

**Department of Biomedical Engineering** "Neurobiology and Modeling of Walking." BME 600 Seminar Series - Frontiers in Biomedical Engineering. Presented by Dr. Keir Pearson, Department of Physiology. Time: 5:30 p.m. Please visit our website for further information. Location: CEB 231. Web site: <http://www.bme.med.ualberta.ca/~courses/jointseminar.html>

**Marketing Series Seminar** Department of Marketing, Business Economics and Law, School of Business (Marketing Seminar Series) is pleased to welcome Irwin Levin, Professor of Psychology and Marketing, University of Iowa. Professor Levin is a leading influence on research and theory in the psychology of judgment and decision making. He is a past president of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making. Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, awarded on the basis of a sustained record of excellence across the spectrum of faculty endeavors. 2002 University of Iowa nominee for the U.S. Professors of the Year Program. Irwin Levin will be giving a talk on "A Multi-Attribute Multi-Stage Model of Online/Offline Shopping Preferences." From 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Location: Tory 1-105. Any questions, please contact Peter Popkowski Leszczyc at [p.popkows@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca](mailto:p.popkows@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca). A copy of the paper can be obtained by calling 492-7984 (Ed Martineau - [emartineau@ualberta.ca](mailto:emartineau@ualberta.ca)) or 492-5418 (Laura Jackson - [laura.jackson@ualberta.ca](mailto:laura.jackson@ualberta.ca)). Web site: <http://www.bus.ualberta.ca/p.popkows/Seminars/seminars.htm>

### Nutrition and Metabolism Research

**Group** Visiting speaker seminar: "If you loved me, you'd eat! Family member perceptions and reactions toward an anorexic, cachectic terminally ill relative." Dr. Susan McClement, University of Manitoba. Location: Classroom F (2J4.02) WMC. From 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## APR 09 2003

**Academic Women's Association AGM** Academic Women's Association Annual General Meeting and Spring Banquet begins at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, in the Papaschase Room, Faculty Club. \$18 members, \$25 non-members. RSVP to Andie Palmer, AWA President, by April 4, at 2-9481 or [andie.palmer@ualberta.ca](mailto:andie.palmer@ualberta.ca).

Display advertisements: Camera-ready artwork is required to size, complete with halftones if necessary. Call 417-3464 for sizes, rates and other particulars.

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Centre for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	455-8133

**student achievement awards**

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Coca-Cola student achievement scholarships!

Safiya Adam	Linda Hajjar
Alexis Lockwood	Erika Persson
Megan Edgelow	Bettina Lott
Rejean Gareau	Pearl Nijjar
Meghan Grant	Talib Rajwani

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## Reward a good volunteer.

Who deserves recognition for their volunteer contributions to the community and to the University of Alberta?



### THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA is accepting nominations for its BOARD OF GOVERNORS' AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Through this award, The Board of Governors will honour individuals or groups who, by their actions, have made exceptional contributions to link the University of Alberta with the municipal, provincial, national and/or international community.

#### The Nominee must

- Provide volunteer service above and beyond the requirements of one's employment and which involves an outstanding contribution of personal time and effort for the benefit of others;
- Promote goodwill between the University and the community;
- Create positive awareness of the University within the community by bringing honour to or enhancing the reputation of the University;
- Further the aims of the University in creating partnerships (social, cultural, economic).

The competition is open to groups and/or individuals in Alberta, Canada, and other countries including non-alumni members of the public, alumni of the University of Alberta, and members of the University academic and support staff. Posthumous nominations may be considered.

Further nomination and eligibility information may be obtained on the internet at [www.ualberta.ca/governors/distinction.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/governors/distinction.htm), or by contacting:

**Office of  
The Board of  
Governors**

3-31 University Hall  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J9

Phone: 780-492-4951  
Fax: 780-492-2726

**NOMINATION DEADLINE IS MAY 9, 2003**

**Department of Chemistry** Department of Chemistry Visiting Speaker Lecture: Dr. Russell Cox, School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom. Lecture title: Towards New Antibacterial Compounds: Organic Phosphates, Phosphonates and Phosphoramidates. Time: 11:00 a.m. Place: E3-25 Gunning/Lemieux Chemistry Centre.

#### Health Promotion & WorkLife Services

**Self-Worth.** Healthy self-worth is the foundation of a fulfilling life. With healthy self-worth you can take the risks that accompany opportunities for success and fulfillment. People with low self-worth settle for security rather than risk failure. Join us for this lunch & learn to discover what self worth is, and strategies to boost your own self worth. Presenter: Heleen McLeod, H.J. McLeod & Associates. Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. To register phone 492-0659 or email: [sarah.gaudon@hrs.ualberta.ca](mailto:sarah.gaudon@hrs.ualberta.ca) Location: Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall. Web site: <http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/HealthPromotion>

**Department of Music** Music at Noon, Convocation Hall Student Recital Series featuring students from the Department of Music. Free admission. 12:10 p.m.

**PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds** Dr Ambikaipakan Senthil Selvan, Professor, presents: "Determinants of Asthma and Wheezing in Canadian Infants and Children." From 12 Noon to 12:50 p.m. Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. Web site: [www.phs.ualberta.ca](http://www.phs.ualberta.ca)

**APIRG Special General Meeting** The Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) is holding a Special General Meeting to elect a ninth board member and review this year's activities. Everyone is welcome to attend but only students who have paid the APIRG fee may vote. 5:00 p.m. SUB Alumni Room. Contact: 436-0181, or email: [apirg@ualberta.ca](mailto:apirg@ualberta.ca) Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~apirg](http://www.ualberta.ca/~apirg)

#### APR 10 2003

**April Public Lecture** Event sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America - Edmonton Society. This is our last lecture for 2002/3. Professor C. Mackay, History and Classics, will give a lecture entitled, "The Album Canusinum: Snapshot of the local ruling class of Canusium in AD 223." The lecture is at 7 p.m. and admission is free. Coffee and cookies. Location: Humanities Centre L 2.

**Colloquium** Event sponsored by Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. Professor Matthias Neufang, of Carleton University, Ottawa, will speak on "Topological Centres Everywhere." Location: 657 CAB. 3:30 p.m.

**Colloquium/Department of History and Classics** Dr. Claire Campbell, Killam Postdoctoral Fellow, will present a paper on "Have you ever seen the prairie; or, What's a girl like you doing in a place like this?" at 3:30 p.m. in Tory 2-58. Coffee and donuts will be served, and all are welcome.

**University of Alberta Press** Ark of Koans Book Launch. Please join us in celebrating the launch of E.D. Blodgett's newest book of poetry, An Ark of Koans. 7:30 p.m. at Audreys Books. Reading, Signing & Refreshments. All are welcome! Location: Audreys Books, 10702 Jasper Ave.

#### APR 11 2003

**Department of Biological Sciences** Department of Biological Sciences Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group and Genetics 605 Seminar Series. Dr. Bruce Bowerman, Institute of Molecular Biology, University of Oregon, presents: "Cell Division and Cell Polarity in Early C. elegans Embryos." 3:30 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

**Department of Biological Sciences** Department of Biological Sciences Biology 631 Seminar Series. Cori Lausen, Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, speaks on "Prairie bats: roost selection and thermoregulation." 12:00 noon in M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/biol631/>

**Department of Public Health Sciences** Environmental Health Sciences seminar. Dr. Linda Reha-Krantz, Department of Biological Sciences, will present: "Using 2-Aminopurine Fluorescence to Study the Dynamics of DNA Polymerase Function." 2:00 p.m. Location: 10-120 CSB.

**Department of Sociology** Dr. M.V. George, Senior Advisor, Demography Division at Statistics Canada, will present: "Flow and Stock Data on International Migration in Canada: Sources, Measurement Issues and Quality." 2:00 p.m. Location: Tory 5-15.

#### APR 13 2003

**Department of Music** Master of Music Recital, Sonja Eagles, soprano. Program will feature works by JS Bach, Vivaldi, Wolf and Copland. Free admission. Convocation Hall. 2:00 p.m.

**Department of Music** Masterclass for student composers and pianists in the community with Distinguished Visitor Marc Couroux. Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7. Free admission. 2:00 p.m.

#### APR 14 2003

#### Department of Biological Sciences

Department of Biological Sciences Botany 600 Seminar Series. Kristie McLachlan, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta speaks on "Phytoremediation and soil decontamination." 12:00 noon in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/bot600/>

**The 12th Annual Merck Frosst Lecture** The department of Biochemistry Graduate Students invited speaker, Dr. Frances H. Arnold, from the California Institute of Technology will be speaking on: "Breeding Proteins: Exploring functional diversity by structure-guided recombination." 2:00 p.m., in Room 2-115 Education North.

**Department of Music** Masterclass for student composers and pianists with Distinguished Visitor Marc Couroux Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7. Free admission. 10:00 a.m.

**Department of Music** Talk: "What is the role of the composer in society today? Artistic activism in wartime" with Distinguished Visitor Marc Couroux. Convocation Hall. Free admission. 1:00 p.m.

#### APR 15 2003

#### Department of Biological Sciences

Biological Sciences Special Seminar. Dr. Garry Scrimgeour, Alberta Conservation Association Candidate for Adjunct Professorship, speaks on "An update on the Alberta Conservation Association and evaluating the cumulative effects of industrial activity of stream fish communities in Northwest Alberta." From 12:00-1:00 in M-149 Biological Sciences Building.

**Department of Music** Distinguished Visitor Recital, Marc Couroux, piano. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

#### APR 16 2003

#### Centre for Health Promotion Studies

Centre for Health Promotion Studies Research Seminar. Dr. Noreen Willows, University of Alberta Assistant Professor, Community Nutrition, will present: "The Sociocultural Reasons for High Body Weight in Aboriginal Children." Dr. Willows will discuss her research efforts to document the sociocultural determinants of high body weight in Cree children living in Quebec. Everyone welcome. From 12:00-1:00 p.m. Location: Corbett Hall, Room 3-26. Web site: [www.chps.ualberta.ca](http://www.chps.ualberta.ca)

**Department of Music** One-on-one sessions. U of A students and pianists with Distinguished Visitor Marc Couroux. (Time and venue to be arranged). Free admission.

**Backroom Bug Hunting at the Strickland Entomological Museum** Join John Acorn for a fascinating look at his research involving the entomology collections at the University of Alberta. John Acorn is the author of numerous books on insects, and is host of the popular television series "Acorn, The Nature Nut". He is currently an Associate of the EH Strickland Entomology Museum. Location: 3-27 Earth Sciences Building. 7:00 p.m. Free admission. Donations to the Strickland Entomological Museum gratefully accepted. Website: [www.museums.ualberta.ca](http://www.museums.ualberta.ca)

**PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds** Dr Steve E Hrudey, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, presents: "A Total Quality Management Framework for Achieving Drinking Water Safety." Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. From 12:00 Noon to 12:50 p.m. Web site: [www.phs.ualberta.ca](http://www.phs.ualberta.ca)

#### APR 17 2003

#### Health Promotion & WorkLife Services

Taking Control of Stress. Are you under pressure? Too much stress in your life? In this lunch & learn presentation you will learn key stress management skills such as: managing your thinking and feelings, time management, how to increase positive experiences, how to get active, relaxation tips and techniques. Presenter: Nancy Hurst, Cornerstone Counselling. Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. To register phone 492-0659 or email: [sarah.gaudon@hrs.ualberta.ca](mailto:sarah.gaudon@hrs.ualberta.ca) Location: Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall. Web site: <http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/HealthPromotion>

**Department of Music** Masterclass for student composers and pianists with Distinguished Visitor Marc Couroux. Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7. Free admission. 10:00 a.m.

**Department of Music** Talk: "On the expansion of concert ritual and the development of a new performance ethics" with Distinguished Visitor Marc Couroux. Free admission. Convocation Hall. 1:00 p.m.

# positions

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## FACULTY OF EXTENSION ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN EXTENSION AND DIRECTOR – APPLIED ARTS

The Faculty of Extension invites applications for a tenure-track appointment beginning July 1, 2003 at the rank of assistant or associate professor to provide academic leadership to its Applied Arts unit. Current non-credit and certificate credit offerings of the unit include visual arts, residential interiors, design, writing, editing and publishing, languages, educational travel and a collaborative liberal studies program for older adults with the Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association. As part of the strategic planning and development of the unit and the Faculty the director will explore and seek university approval, in collaboration with the appropriate faculties and external organizations, for new non-credit and certificate and diploma credit programs of study that respond to professional and public needs in the humanities and the arts. Existing and new program possibilities will be addressed through research, the production and delivery of learning opportunities, and through information services. The director will also be responsible for acquiring external resources to support research, development, delivery and evaluation of all unit activities. In addition to leadership and other executive responsibilities the director, as a member of the tenure-track academic staff, is expected to publish or engage in other creative activity, teach and participate in Faculty and university committee work.

Applied Arts is one of eight academic units in the Faculty of Extension. It has a full-time permanent staff of six and a number of special project contract staff. Its annual budget, which is based on cost recovery, is about \$900,000. The unit offers about 220 courses annually and the number of course registrations is about 3,400. Unique facilities include two art studios, a print-making classroom and an art gallery dedicated to supporting teaching, and student and instructor exhibitions.

The Faculty of Extension has a strong mandate from the University of Alberta with general responsibility for life-long learning and outreach, and special responsibility to serve learners whose needs are not met through other academic programs. With over 120 staff, 15 of whom are tenure-track academic appointments, and an annual gross expenditure budget of \$12 million, the Faculty realizes its mandate through a broad range of programs and services. These include: a graduate degree in Communications Technology; over 30 other credential-bearing programs; an array of personal development offerings; specialized online and community-oriented services; and additional technical assistance and research services. The Faculty operates from two modern and technologically advanced facilities on campus, the University Extension Centre and the new TELUS Centre for Professional Development.

The successful candidate will be passionate about the humanities, the arts and life-long learning and will be familiar with the university context and continuing

education. S/he will demonstrate an ability to collaborate effectively within and outside the university and will be enthusiastic about exploring the prospects and potentials of internet-based education and information services. Personal qualities will include integrity, sound judgment, and confidence coupled with an accessible manner, a sense of humour, energy and enthusiasm. A doctorate in the arts or humanities is required. However, consideration will be given to exceptional candidates who have a doctoral thesis defense scheduled prior to October 1, 2003 and to candidates from Fine or Applied Arts disciplines in which the master's degree is the terminal degree. Appointment at the rank of assistant professor requires demonstrated potential for scholarship and for associate professor an academic record appropriate to that rank. Experience in continuing education program development and delivery will be an asset.

The 2003-04 salary floor for the rank of assistant professor is \$49,188 and for associate professor \$61,130. The University of Alberta supplements salary with an excellent benefits plan.

The deadline for applications is May 15, 2003. The appointment will take effect July 1, 2003 or as soon as possible thereafter. Written applications, accompanied by a résumé of qualifications and experience, and the names and addresses of three referees, should be submitted to:

Dr. Gerry Glassford, Acting Dean  
Faculty of Extension  
2-02 University Extension Centre  
University of Alberta  
8303 – 112 Street, NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T4  
E-mail: [gerry.glassford@ualberta.ca](mailto:gerry.glassford@ualberta.ca)

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Applicants being considered will be contacted within three weeks. Applicants not contacted are thanked for their interest and encouraged to apply for future positions advertised by the University.

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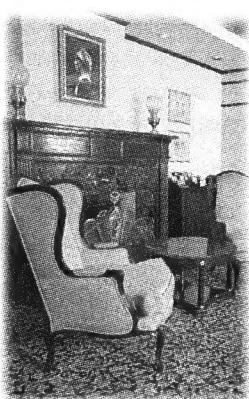
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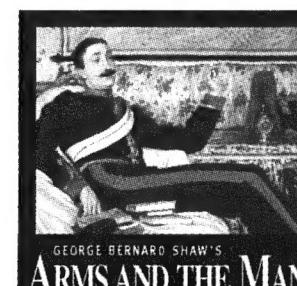


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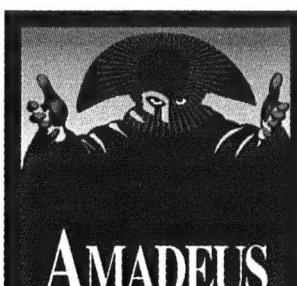
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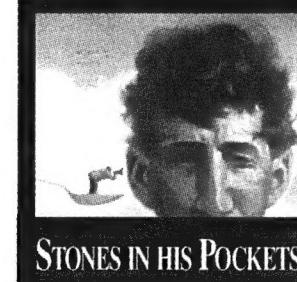
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ifications at the assistant professor; however, associate professor appointments will be considered for outstanding candidates. Review of applications will commence on June 15, 2003 and continue until the positions are filled. Interested applicants should send curriculum vitae and a statement of teaching and research interests to:

Dr. Albert Cook, Dean  
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine  
3-48 Corbett Hall  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G4  
Phone: 780-492-5991 Fax: 780-492-1626  
Email: al.cook@ualberta.ca  
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## notices

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### JALISCO PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The Jalisco Partnership Development Award was established to support continuing relationships with our priority partnerships in our sister State of Jalisco, Mexico. These are: the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Universidad de Guadalajara, Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM-Guadalajara campus) and CONAFOR (National Forestry Agency). The award supports innovative practices that strengthen these priority partnerships by providing start-up funds for new initiatives such as student and faculty exchange, research and co-operative teaching.

The fund allocates a maximum of \$10,000.00 per year. Single or multiple-year proposals are acceptable, and all reasonable expenses can be considered for funding provided they are not supported by any other source. The competition is open to University of Alberta faculty and staff.

For more information, including application forms and terms of reference, please contact University of Alberta International, 1204 College Plaza, Edmonton.

Tel: 492-5840/e-mail:  
cecilia.martinez@ualberta.ca  
Application deadline: Monday, May 5, 2003

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

The International Partnership Fund (IPF) was

established to support University of Alberta faculty and staff participating in exchange activities with the university's many partner institutions around the world. The fund provides financial support to faculty and staff engaged in the development and/or implementation of activities that contribute to sustainable and reciprocal relations with international academic partners. Awards may be used for travel by either the U of A staff/faculty member to visit an international partner, or for the faculty or unit to support a visitor from the partner. The fund favours activities that develop projects bringing an international focus to the academic, research and teaching mandate, and contribute to the internationalization objectives of the faculty.

Support from the IPF will ideally complement multiple funding sources. Matching support from the individual and/or the department/faculty and partner institution is required.

Note: The IPF only applies to those institutions with which the U of A has a formal agreement.

For guidelines, application forms and list of eligible partners, please contact:  
University of Alberta International,  
1204 College Plaza, Tel: 492-5840/e-mail: cecilia.martinez@ualberta.ca  
Application deadline: Friday, May 2, 2003



## PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

### Re: Long Range Development Plan – Sector Planning

**Monday, April 28, 2003 7 to 9 p.m.**

**Room 1-003 Engineering Teaching & Learning Complex (ETLC)**  
ETLC is attached to ECERF - 116 St. and 92 Ave; use east (back) door

– Free parking in Windsor Car Park 116 Street near 92 Avenue --

Please join us to learn about University of Alberta sector planning as the first stage of implementation of the Long Range Development Plan, and to share your ideas.

Sector planning deals with the principles of development. It does not deal with specific buildings, but sets general development guidelines such as generic types of building use, setbacks, building heights, green space requirements, and routes of walks & roadways.

University of Alberta lands are divided into 19 sectors, each having unique characteristics. In 2003, sector planning is proceeding for seven sectors. At this time, the University has draft plans prepared for Sectors 3, 4, 7 and 8 (north main campus).

Sector 3 – Engineering  
Sector 4 – Sciences  
Sector 7 – Academic centre east of HUB  
Sector 8 – NE campus housing (Saskatchewan Drive to 87 Avenue, 110th to 111th Street)

Your questions and ideas will be welcome at the meeting following a presentation outlining the initial planning proposals for these sectors.

More information: [www.ualberta.ca/publicaffairs](http://www.ualberta.ca/publicaffairs) and follow the 'Community Consultation' link, or contact Judy Goldsand, 492-0443; e-mail: [judy.goldsand@ualberta.ca](mailto:judy.goldsand@ualberta.ca)

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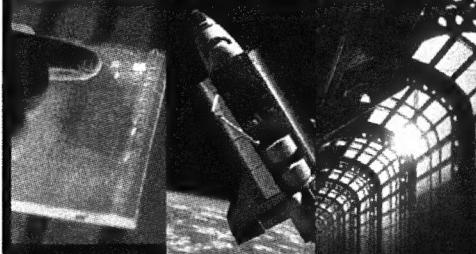
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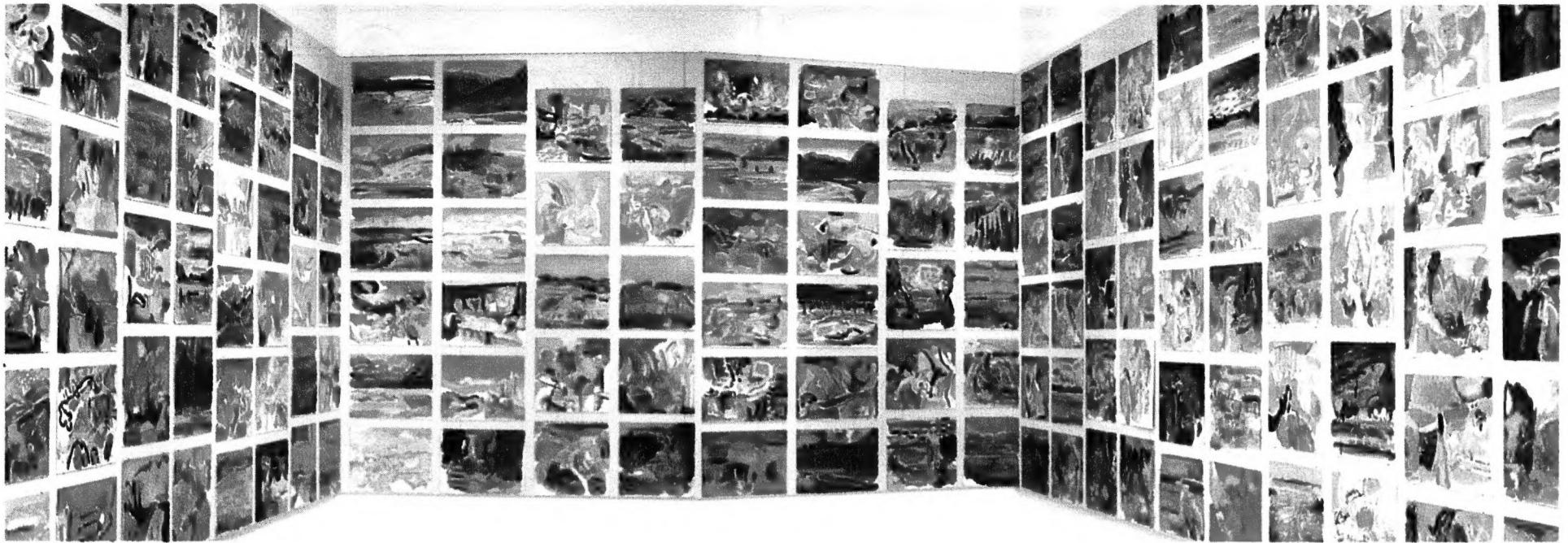


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# The artist's statement

***Les Graff takes the preciousness out of painting***

By Gilbert A. Bouchard

No one can accuse painter Les Graff of being precious in his installation-influenced painting exhibit currently occupying the University of Alberta's Extension Centre Gallery, covering the whole nail-friendly surface of the space with a healthy slice of his oeuvre. Comprised of 311 unframed works covering 72,592 square inches of gallery walls, with only two inches of negative space between the boards, Graff's *Les is More* show necessitated the "butchering" of 23 paintings.

Most of the brightly coloured expressive works – abstracts and landscapes – were bent to round corners, others were creatively cut to accommodate light switches, a thermostat, and to encircle the room's doorway. None of the works are titled. The logic behind this unorthodox approach in art display was multilayered, reflecting everything from Graff's desire to uncover the deep process behind art production to his anxiety about picking the scant handful of seminal pieces traditionally presented in most art exhibits.

"I've never been able to easily pick the 10 paintings you need for an art show out of all my other work," said the painter, curator and Faculty of Extension art instructor. "I don't paint for the same reasons that go into putting together a show. So, this exhibit avoids that whole dilemma."

Graff also wanted to share a tiny bit of studio experience with the viewer, underlining a part of the process vital to the creation of his art.

"This is how I live with my painting in the studio. It's my habit to go out to the countryside at the start of every

summer and 'just' paint. Then I come back to the studio and nail the boards up on the wall," he said of these field-created 'études' and subsequent studio-painted retakes on these landscape-influenced riffs. "I'm wanting to show that the process of making art is ultimately more important than the finished product."

All too often, says Graff, an artist reduces his or her spectrum of work to those final few pieces that most closely resemble their expected style. This selection process may make it easier to consume the work or explain it away in art history terms, but sells the creative process short.

"We're really used to seeing a (J.E.H.) MacDonald or a Tom Thomson look like a 'good' MacDonald or Thomson," he said.

Graff notes this exhibition bias has also resulted in wholesale discrimination against entire art media such as drawing, another exhibit taboo he addressed in a show he curated earlier this year – *Pulse: A Northern Alberta Drawing Show* – a 58-piece-strong exhibit of seldom-seen drawings currently touring on a seven-city tour.

The *Les is More* show encompasses four years of this more-preliminary-than-not work, displayed in light/dark,

dark/light alternating sequence with no larger chronological or thematic arcs. Not that you can't find arcs or sequences of work as Graff developed his themes from initial plein-air inspirations, it's just that they're not specifically underlined. "I want to overwhelm viewers with the sheer amount of art they'll see in the show," he said, borrowing a trick from the conceptual art crowd. "I want eyes and minds to slide around and not focus on any particular work."

This strategy, he says, eliminates the tendency many gallery viewers have to leave a show with a 'favourite' work in mind that distracts from the show as a whole.

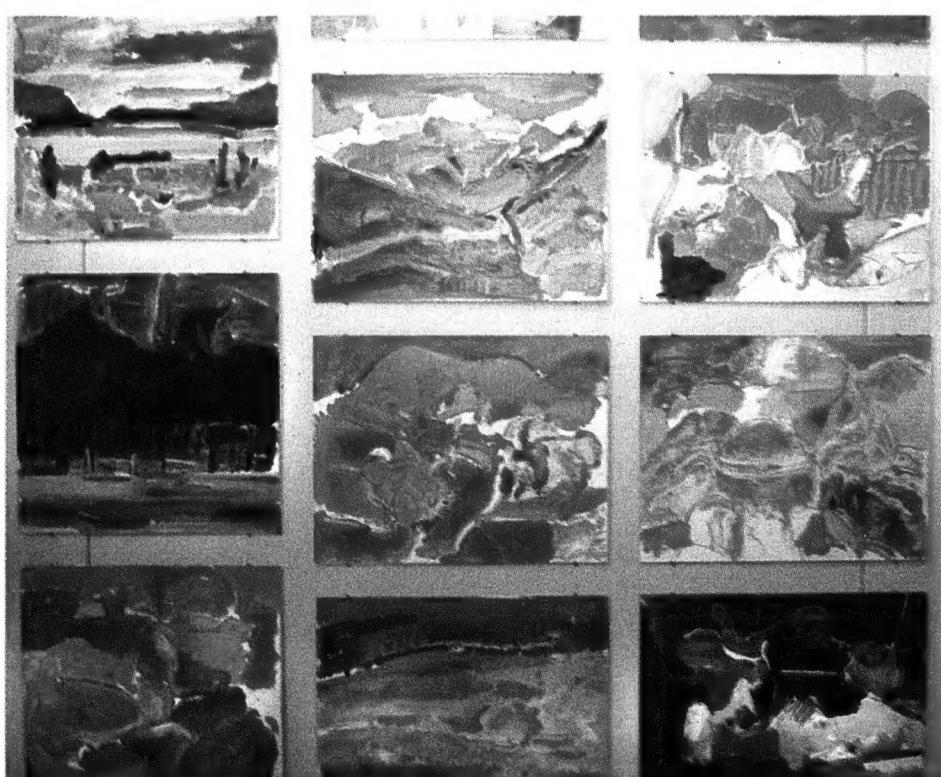
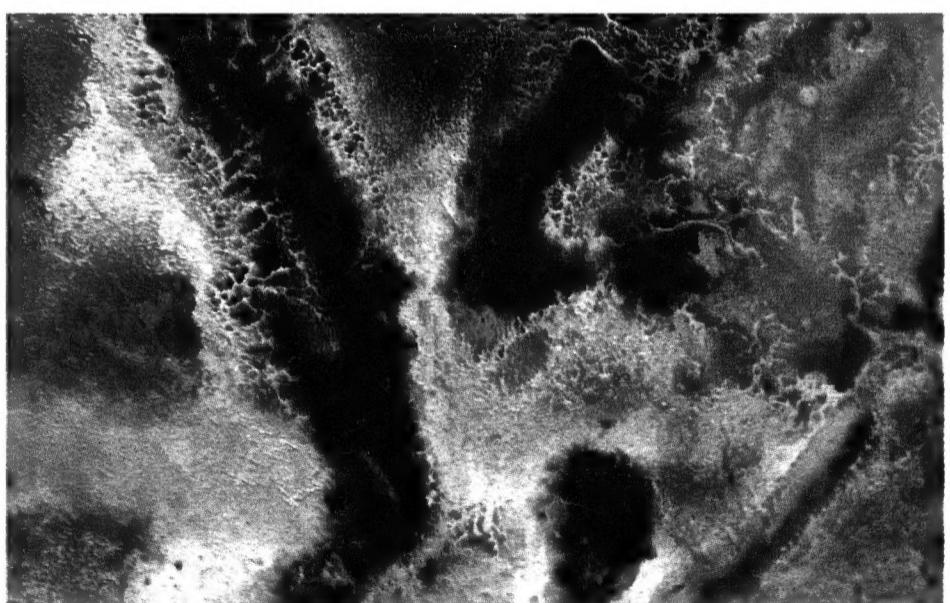
Finally, Graff wants to make a case for quick, loose art and also a pitch for avoiding preciousness in the creation of smaller paintings. "There's a trend going back to the Group of Seven where small paintings get quite precious," said Graff, whose works are on exhibit frequently across the province and who is, incidentally, a part of Alberta's art history: he spent 31 years working for the province's culture department.

"Ultimately," he said of his work, "it's just paint smeared about on a board." ■

*Les Graff's Les is More* exhibit continues at the University of Alberta Extension Centre Gallery, 8303 - 112 Street., until April 23. Gallery hours are: Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.



Chris Young



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